CHAPTER 80 APPLICATION OF DESIGN STANDARDS

Topic 81 - Project Development Overview

Index 81.1 - Philosophy

The Project Development process seeks to provide a degree of mobility to users of the transportation system that is in balance with other values. In the development of transportation projects, social, economic, and environmental effects must be considered fully along with technical issues so that final decisions are made in the best overall public interest. Attention should be given to such considerations as:

- (a) Need for safe and efficient transportation.
- (b) Attainment of community goals and objectives.
- (c) Needs of low mobility and disadvantaged groups.
- (d) Costs of eliminating or minimizing adverse effects on natural resources, environmental values, public services, aesthetic values, and community and individual integrity.
- (e) Planning based on realistic financial estimates.
- (f) The cost, ease, and safety of maintaining whatever is built.

Proper consideration of these items requires that a facility be viewed from the perspectives of the user, the nearby community, and larger statewide interests. For the user, efficient travel and safety are paramount concerns. At the same time, the community often is more concerned about local aesthetic, social, and economic impacts. The general population, however, tends to be interested in how successfully a project functions as part of the overall transportation system and how large a share of available capital resources it consumes. Therefore, individual projects must be selected

for construction on the basis of overall system benefits as well as community goals, plans, and values.

Decisions must also emphasize different transportation modes working together effectively.

The goal is to increase highway mobility and safety in a manner that is compatible with, or which enhances, adjacent community values and plans.

Topic 82 - Application of Standards

82.1 Highway Design Manual Standards

(1) General. The highway design criteria and policies in this manual provide a guide for the engineer to exercise sound judgment in applying standards, consistent with the above Project Development philosophy, in the design of projects.

The design standards used for any project should equal or exceed the minimum given in the Manual to the maximum extent feasible, taking into account costs, traffic volumes, traffic and safety benefits, right of way, socioeconomic and environmental impacts, etc. The philosophy provides for use of lower standards when such use best satisfies the concerns of a given situation. Because design standards have evolved over many years, many existing highways do not conform fully with current standards. It is not intended that current manual standards be applied retroactively to all existing State highways; such is neither warranted nor economically feasible. However, when warranted, upgrading of existing roadway features such as guardrail, lighting, superelevation, roadbed width, etc., should be considered, either as independent projects or as part of larger projects. A record of the decision not to upgrade the existing non-standard mandatory features shall be provided through the exception process (See Index 82.2).

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This manual does not address temporary construction features. It is recognized that the construction conditions encountered are so diverse and variable that it is not practical to set geometric criteria. Guidance for the treatment of temporary construction zones can be found in Chapter 5 of the Traffic Manual, "Manual of Traffic Control" and the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD).

In this manual design standards are categorized in order of importance in development of a safe State highway system operating at selected levels of service commensurate with projected traffic volumes and highway classification.

- (2) Mandatory Standards. Mandatory design standards are those considered most essential to achievement of overall design objectives. Many pertain to requirements of law or regulations such as those embodied in the FHWA's 13 controlling criteria (see below). Mandatory standards use the word "shall" and are printed in **Boldface** type (see Table 82.1A).
- (3) Advisory Standards. Advisory design standards are important also, but allow greater flexibility in application to accommodate design constraints or be compatible with local conditions on resurfacing or rehabilitation projects. Advisory standards use the word "should" and are indicated by <u>Underlining</u> (see Table 82.1B).
- (4) Permissive Standards. All standards other than mandatory or advisory, whether indicated by the use of "should" or "may", are permissive with no requirement for application intended.
- (5) Controlling Criteria. The FHWA has designated thirteen controlling criteria for selection of design standards of primary importance for highway safety, listed as follows: design speed, lane width, shoulder width, bridge width, horizontal alignment, vertical alignment, grade, stopping sight distance, cross slope, superelevation, horizontal clearance, vertical clearance and bridge structural

capacity. All but the last of these criteria are also designated as geometric criteria.

The design standards related to the 12 geometric criteria are designated as mandatory standards in this manual (see Index 82.1(2) and Table 82.1A).

(6) Other. In addition to the design standards in this manual, the Traffic Manual contains standards relating to clearzone, signs, delineation, barrier systems, signals, and lighting.

Caution must be exercised when using other Caltrans publications which provide guidelines for the design of highway facilities, such as HOV lanes. These publications do not contain design standards; moreover, the designs suggested in these publications do not always meet Highway Design Manual Standards. Therefore, all other Caltrans publications must be used in conjunction with this manual.

82.2 Approvals for Nonstandard Design

(1) Mandatory Standards. To promote uniform practice on a statewide basis, design features or elements which deviate from the mandatory standards indicated herein shall require the approval of the Chief, Division of Design. This approval authority has been delegated to the Design Coordinators, except the mandatory standards in Chapter 600, which have been delegated to the Chief, Office of Pavement Design, and may involve coordination with the Design Coordinator.

The current procedures and documentation requirements pertaining to the approval process for exceptions to mandatory design standards are contained in Chapter 21 of the Project Development Procedures Manual (PDPM).

Design exception approval must be obtained prior to District approval of the PSR, or any project initiation document (i.e., PSSR, PEER, combined PSR/PR), other than the PSR-PDS. The text of the project initiation report must include a brief description of the nonstandard

features, as well as a reference to all approved Fact Sheets and their approval dates by the Division of Design and/or FHWA (when applicable).

If the need for a design exception is identified after approval of the project's initiation document, the above described consultation and documentation process shall be initiated immediately, and must be completed prior to approval of the next project development report. The text of the project development report (i.e., Draft Project Report, Project Report, Supplemental PR, PAR, etc.) must include the design exception reference normally provided in the project initiation report (see above).

During the construction phase of a project, Fact Sheets must be prepared (by Project Development staff) to document any nonstandard features proposed in a Contract Change Order. Such Change Orders shall not be executed until the proposed design exception has been approved (at least verbally) by the appropriate Caltrans and FHWA (if required) authority (ies). If verbal approval is granted to expedite Change Order execution, the Fact Sheet must be completed and approved immediately thereafter.

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) allows significant delegation to the states by FHWA to approve and administer portions of the Federal-Aid Transportation Program. California has accepted the maximum delegations offered as outlined in the May 27, 1992 memorandum signed by W.P. Smith. If required, FHWA approval of exceptions to mandatory design standards related to the 13 controlling criteria should be sought as early in the project development process as possible. However, formal approval shall not be requested until the appropriate Project Development Coordinator has approved the design exception.

FHWA approval is not required for exceptions to "Caltrans-only" mandatory standards. Table 82.1A identifies these mandatory standards.

- For local facilities crossing the State right of way see Index 308.1.
- (2) Advisory Standards. The authority to approve exceptions to advisory standards has been delegated to the District Directors. Proposals for exceptions from advisory standards should be discussed with the Project Development Coordinators during development of the approval documentation. The responsibility for the establishment of procedures for review, documentation, and long term retention of approved exceptions from advisory standards has also been delegated to the District Directors.

82.3 Use of FHWA and AASHTO Standards and Policies

The standards in this manual generally conform to the standards and policies set forth in the AASHTO publications, "A Policy on Geometric Design of Highways and Streets" (2001) and "A Policy on Design Standards-Interstate System" (1988). A third AASHTO publication, "Roadside Design Guide" (2002), focuses on creating safer roadsides. These three documents, along with other AASHTO and FHWA publications cited in 23 CFR Ch 1, Part 625, Appendix A, contain most of the current AASHTO policies and standards, and are approved references to be used in conjunction with this manual.

AASHTO policies and standards, which are established as nationwide standards, do not always satisfy California conditions. When standards differ, the instructions in this manual govern, except when necessary for FHWA project approval (Index 108.3, Coordination with the FHWA).

82.4 Mandatory Procedural Requirements

Required procedures and policies for which Caltrans is responsible, relating to project clearances, permits, licenses, required tests, documentation, value engineering, etc., are indicated by use of the word "must". Procedures and actions to be performed by others (subject to notification by Caltrans), or statements of fact are indicated by the word "will".

82.5 Effective Date for Implementing Revisions to Design Standards

Revisions to design standards will be issued with a stated effective date. It is understood that all projects will be designed to current standards unless an exception has been approved in accordance with Index 82.2.

On projects where the project development process has started, the following conditions on the effective date of the new or revised standards will be applied:

- For all projects where the PS&E has not been finalized, the new or revised design standards shall be incorporated unless this would impose a significant delay in the project schedule or a significant increase in the project engineering or construction costs. The Project Development Coordinator will make the final determination on whether to apply the new or previous design standards on a project-by-project basis for roadway features.
- For all projects where the PS&E has been submitted to Headquarters Office Engineer for advertising or the project is under construction, the new or revised standards will be incorporated only if they are identified in the Change Transmittal as requiring special implementation.

For locally-sponsored projects, the Oversight Engineer shall inform the funding sponsor within 15 working days of the effective date of any changes in mandatory or advisory design standards as defined in Index 82.2.

Table 82.1A Mandatory Standards

CHAPTER 80	APPLICATION OF	204.8	Vertical Falsework Clearances*
	DESIGN STANDARDS	Topic 205	Road Connections and Driveways
Topic 82	Application of Standards	Index 205.1	Sight Distance Requirements for
Index 82.2	Approvals for Nonstandard Design		Access Openings on Expressways
CHAPTER 100	BASIC DESIGN POLICIES	Topic 208	Bridges and Grade Separation Structures
Topic 101	Design Speed	Index 208.1	Bridge Width
Index 101.1	Technical Reductions of Design	208.10	Bridge Approach Railings*
	Speed	CHAPTER 300	GEOMETRIC CROSS
101.1	Selection of Design Speed - Local		SECTION
101.1	Facilities	Topic 301	Pavement Standards
101.1	Selection of Design Speed - Local Facilities - with Connections to	Index 301.1	Lane Width
	State Facilities	301.2	Cross Slopes
101.2	Design Speed Standards	301.2	Algebraic Differences in Cross Slopes
Topic 104	Control of Access	Topic 302	Shoulder Standards
Index 104.4	Protection of Access Rights*	Index 302.1	Shoulder Width
CHAPTER 200	GEOMETRIC DESIGN	302.2	Shoulder Cross Slopes
	AND STRUCTURE STANDARDS	Topic 305	Median Standards
Topic 201	Sight Distance	Index 305.1	Median Width*
Index 201.1	Sight Distance Standards	Topic 307	Cross Sections for State Highways
		Index 307.2	Shoulder Width for Structural
Topic 202 Index 202.2	Superelevation Standards for Superelevation	11.50.1 507.12	Section Support on Two-lane Cross Sections for New Construction
202.7	Superelevation on City Streets and	207.2	
202.7	County Roads	307.2	Shoulder Standards for Two-lane Cross Sections for New
Topic 203	Horizontal Alignment		Construction
Index 203.1	Horizontal Alignment - Local Facilities	Topic 308	Cross Sections for Roads Under Other Jurisdictions
203.1	Horizontal Alignment and Stopping Sight Distance	Index 308.1	Cross Section Standards for City Streets and County Roads without
203.2	Standards for Curvature		Connection to State Facilities
Topic 204	Grade	308.1	Minimum Width of 2-lane
Index 204.1	Standards for Grade - Local Facilities		Structures for City Streets and County Roads without Connection to State Facilities
204.3	Standards for Grade		o sate i acinico

^{*}Caltrans-only Mandatory Standard

Table 82.1A Mandatory Standards (Cont.)

308.1	Cross Section Standards for City Streets and County Roads with Connection to State Facilities	CHAPTER 500 Topic 501	TRAFFIC INTERCHANGES General
308.1	Minimum Width of 2-lane Structures for City Streets and	Index 501.3	Interchange Spacing
	County Roads with Connection to	Topic 504	Interchange Design Standards
Topic 309	State Facilities Clearances	Index 504.2	Location of Freeway Entrances & Exits
Index 309.1	Horizontal Clearances and Stopping Sight Distance	504.2	Ramp Deceleration Lane and "DL" Distance
309.1	Clear Recovery Zone	504.3	Ramp Lane Width
309.2	Vertical Clearances - Major	504.3	Ramp Shoulder Width
309.2	Structures Vertical Clearances - Minor	504.3	Ramp Lane Drop Taper
309.2	Structures	504.3	Ramp Metering Design Features
309.2	Rural and Single Interstate Routing	504.3	Lane Drop Taper
	System	504.3	Ramp Meters on Connector Ramps
309.3	Horizontal Tunnel Clearances	504.3	Lane Drop Transitions on Connector
309.3	Vertical Tunnel Clearances		Ramps
309.4	Lateral Clearance for Elevated Structures*	504.3	Distance Between Ramp Intersection and Local Road Intersection
309.5	Structures Across or Adjacent to Railroads - Vertical Clearance	504.4	Freeway-to-freeway Connections - Shoulder Width
Topic 310	Frontage Roads	504.8	Access Control along Ramps
Index 310.1	Frontage Road Width*	504.8	Access Control at Ramp Terminal
CHAPTER 400	INTERSECTIONS AT GRADE	504.8	Access Rights Required Opposite Ramp Terminals
Topic 405	Intersection Design Standards	CHAPTER 600	PAVEMENT
Index 405.1	Driver Set Back	CHAFTER 000	STRUCTURAL SECTION
405.1	Sight Distance at Public Road Intersections	Topic 602	Pavement Service Life and Traffic Data
405.1	Sight Distance at Private Road Intersections	Index 602.2	Pavement Service Life for CAP-M*
405.2	Left-turn Channelization - Lane Width	Index 602.2	Pavement Service Life for Pavement Rehabilitation*
405.2	Two-way Left-turn Lane Width	Index 602.2	Project Resurfacing Requirements*
405.3	Right-turn Channelization - Width		

^{*}Caltrans-only Mandatory Standard

Table 82.1A Mandatory Standards (Cont.)

Index 602.2	Pavement Service Life for New Construction & Reconstruction*	1003.1	Physical Barriers Adjacent to Class I Bikeways
Index 602.2	Pavement Service Life for Widening*	1003.1	Class I Bikeway in Medians*
- · · · · · ·		1003.1	Class I Bikeway Design Speeds*
Topic 603	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement Structural Section Design	1003.1	No Speed Bumps on Class I Bikeways*
Index 603.2	Doweling and Tying Concrete	1003.2	Class II Bikeway Design*
	Pavement*	1003.2	Class II Bikeway Widths Adjacent
Index 603.4	Shoulder Structural Section Requirements*	1002.2	to Parking Stalls*
CHAPTER 700	•	1003.2	Class II Bikeways Adjacent to Parking*
	MISCELLANEOUS STANDARDS	1003.2	Class II Bikeway Widths where Parking is Permitted*
Topic 701	Fences	1003.2	Class II Bikeway Widths where
Index 701.2	Fences on Freeways and Expressways*		Parking is Prohibited*
CHAPTER 900	LANDSCAPE	1003.2	Class II Bikeways Adjacent to Part- time Parking*
Topic 903	ARCHITECTURE Safety Roadside Rest Area Design	1003.2	Class II Bikeways Widths in Undeveloped Areas*
	Standards	1003.2	Class II Bikeways Delineation*
Index 903.5	Rest Area Ramp Design	1003.2	Class II Bikeways Through
Topic 904	Vista Point Standards and Guidelines	1002.2	Interchange*
Index 904.3	Vista Point Ramp Design	1003.3	Class III Bikeways Through Interchange*
CHAPTER 1000	BIKEWAY PLANNING	1003.6	Bicycles Traveling against Traffic*
	AND DESIGN	1003.6	Bikeway Overcrossing Structures*
Topic 1002	General Planning Criteria	1003.6	Drainage Inlet Grates on Bikeways*
Index 1002.1	Resurfacing Requirements*	Topic 1004	Uniform Signs, Markings and
1002.1	Shoulder Requirements when Adding Lanes* Design Criteria	I 1 10041	Traffic Control Devices
Topic 1003		Index 1004.1	Uniform Signs, Markings and Traffic Control Devices*
Index 1003.1	Class I Bikeway Widths*	1004.3	Class II Bikeway Signing*
1003.1	Class I Bikeway Horizontal	1004.3	Class II Bikeway Pavement
1003.1	Clearance*		Markings*
1003.1	Class I Bikeway Structure Width*	1004.3	Class II Bikeway Pavement Markers*
1003.1	Class I Bikeway Vertical Clearance*		

*Caltrans-only Mandatory Standard

Table 82.1A Mandatory Standards (Cont.)

CHAPTER 1100 HIGHWAY TRAFFIC NOISE ABATEMENT

Topic 1102 Design Criteria

Index 1102.2 Horizontal Clearance to Noise

Barrier

1102.2 Noise Barrier on Safety Shape

Concrete Barrier

Table 82.1B Advisory Standards

CHAPTER 100	BASIC DESIGN	Topic 203	Horizontal Alignment
Topic 101	POLICIES Design Speed	Index 203.1	Horizontal Alignment - Local Facilities
Index 101.1	Selection of Design Speed - Local Facilities	203.3	Alignment Consistency and Design Speed
101.1	Selection of Design Speed - Local	203.5	Compound Curves
	Facilities - with Connections to State Facilities	203.6	Reversing Curves
Topic 104	Control of Access	Topic 204	Grade
Index 104.5	Relation of Access Opening to Median Opening	Index 204.1	Standards for Grade - Local Facilities
Topic 105	Pedestrian Facilities	204.3	Standards for Grade
Index 105.1	Minimum Sidewalk Width	204.3	Ramp Grades
Index 103.1	Millimum Sidewark Width	204.4	Vertical Curves
105.4	New Construction, Two Ramp Design	204.5	Decision Sight Distance at Climbing Lane Drops
 Topic 107	Roadside Installations	204.6	Design Speeds for Horizontal and Vertical Curves
Index 107.1	Standards for Roadway Connections	204.8	Falsework Span and Depth Requirements
107.1	Number of Exits and Entrances Allowed at Roadway Connections	Topic 205	Road Connections and Driveways
CHAPTER 200	GEOMETRIC DESIGN	Index 205.1	Access Openings on Expressways
	AND STRUCTURE	Topic 206	Pavement Transitions
	STANDARDS	Index 206.3	Lane Drop Transitions
Topic 201	Sight Distance	206.3	Lane Width Reductions
Index 201.3	Stopping Sight Distance on Grades	Topic 208	Bridges and Grade Separation
201.7	Decision Sight Distance		Structures
Topic 202	Superelevation	Index 208.3	Decking of Bridge Medians
Index 202.2	Superelevation on Same Plane for Rural Two-lane Roads	208.6	Minimum Width of Pedestrian Overcrossings
202.5	Superelevation Transition	208.10	Protective Screening on
202.5	Superelevation Runoff	208.10	Overcrossings
202.5	Superelevation in Restrictive Situations	208.10	Bicycle Railing Locations
202.6	Superelevation of Compound Curves	Topic 210	Earth Retaining Systems
202.7	Superelevation on City Streets and County Roads	Index 210.5	Cable Railing

Table 82.1B Advisory Standards (Cont.)

CHAPTER 300	GEOMETRIC CROSS SECTION	CHAPTER 400	INTERSECTIONS AT GRADE
Topic 301	Pavement Standards	Topic 403	Principles of Channelization
Index 301.2	Algebraic Differences of Cross	Index 403.3	Angle of Intersection
1	Slopes	Topic 404	Design Vehicles
Topic 303	Curbs, Dikes, and Side Gutters	Index 404.3	STAA Truck-turn Template
Index 303.1	Use of Curb with Operating Speeds of 75 km/h and Greater	404.3	California Truck-turn Template
303.1	Selection of Curb Type	Topic 405	Intersection Design Standards
303.3	Selection of Dike Type	Index 405.1	Corner Sight Distance at Public Road Intersections
Topic 304	Side Slopes	405.1	Decision Sight Distance at
Index 304.1	Side Slopes 1:4 or Flatter	105.1	Intersections
304.1	5.5 m Minimum Catch Distance	405.5	Emergency Openings and Sight
Topic 305	Median Standards		Distance
Index 305.1	Median Width	405.5	Median Opening Locations
305.2	Median Cross Slopes	CHAPTER 500	TRAFFIC INTERCHANGES
T		Topic 502	Interchange Types
Topic 308	Cross Sections for Roads Under Other Jurisdictions	Index 502.2	Isolated Ramps and Partial Interchanges
Index 308.1	Cross Section Standards for City Streets and County Roads without	Topic 504	Interchange Design Standards
	Connection to State Facilities	Index 504.2	Freeway Entrance and Exit Design
308.1	Minimum Shoulder Width Requirements for Bicycles	504.2	Collector-distributor Deceleration Lane and "DL" Distance
Topic 309	Clearances	504.2	Paved Width at Gore
Index 309.1	Clear Recovery Zone	504.2	Auxiliary Lanes
309.1	Safety Shaped Barriers at Retaining,	504.2	Freeway Exit Design Speed
200.7	Pier, or Abutment Walls	504.2	Decision Sight Distance at Exits
309.5	Structures Across or Adjacent to Railroads - Vertical Clearance	504.2	Design Speed and Alignment Consistency at Inlet Nose
Topic 310	Frontage Roads	504.2	Freeway Ramp Grades
Index 310.2	Outer Separation - Urban Areas		
310.2	Outer Separation - Rural Areas	504.2	Differences in Pavement Cross Slopes at Freeway Entrances and Exits
		504.2	Vertical Curves at Freeway Exits
		504.2	Crest Vertical Curves at Freeway Exit Terminal

Table 82.1B Advisory Standards (Cont.)

504.2	Sag Vertical Curves at Freeway Exit Terminal	504.4	Merging Branch Connector Auxiliary Lanes
504.2	Ascending Entrance Ramps with Sustained Upgrades	504.4	Diverging Branch Connector Auxiliary Lanes
504.3	Ramp Design Speed	504.4	Freeway-to-freeway Connector
504.3	Ramp Lane Drop Taper	504.5	Lane Drop Tapers
504.3	Ramp Lane Drops and Auxiliary Lanes	504.5 504.6	Auxiliary Lanes Mainline Lane Reduction at
504.3	Metered Single-Lane Entrance	304.0	Interchanges
304.3	Ramps Auxiliary Lane	504.7	Weaving Sections
504.3	Metered Multi-Lane Entrance	504.7	Weaving Length
5042	Ramps Auxiliary Lane	504.8	Access Control at Ramp Terminal
504.3 504.3	Ramp Terminals and Grade Ramp Terminals and Sight Distance	CHAPTER 600	PAVEMENT STRUCTURAL SECTION
504.3	Free Right Turns at Ramp Terminals	Tania (02	Pavement Service Life and Traff Data
504.3	Distance between Ramp Intersection	Topic 602	
	and Local Road Intersection	Index 602.2	Pavement Service Life for
504.3	Entrance Ramp Lane Drop		Temporary Pavements and Detours
504.3	Single-Lane Ramp Widening for Passing	CHAPTER 700	MISCELLANEOUS STANDARDS
504.3	Two-lane Exit Ramps	Topic 701	Fences
504.3	Two-lane Exit Ramps and Auxiliary Lanes	Index 701.2	Fences on Freeways and Expressways
504.3	Distance Between Successive On- ramps	CHAPTER 900	LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
504.3	Distance Between Sucessive Exits	Topic 902	Planting design standards
504.4	Freeway-to-freeway Connections Design Speed	Index 902.2	Sight Distance and Safety Requirements for Planting
504.4	Profile Grades on Freeway-to- freeway Connectors	902.2	Clear Recovery Zone and Trees
504.4	Single-lane Connector Design	902.2	Minimum Setback of Trees
		Topic 904	Vista Point Design Standards
504.4	Single-lane Connector Widening for Passing	Index 904.3	Vista Point Connection Design
504.4	Volumes Requiring Branch Connectors		
504.4	Merging Branch Connector Design		

504.4 Diverging Branch Connector Design